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active, and an untiring worker. He held the confidence of his patients to a remarkable degree. He was a good diagnostician; a logical reasoner; and possessed great common sense.

He was equally loyal to his profession, and to his brother physicians. As an anatomist he was exact and thorough; expert and dexterous, his dissections were more than excellent, they were beautiful.

He contributed largely and wisely to the Warren Anatomical Museum with the work of his own hands. Many of his preparations of coarse anatomy are, and will remain, unsurpassed.

From practical anatomy to surgery the step was short. He became a rapid and skilful operator. He was also so well grounded in Surgical Pathology that he was a thoughtful, level-headed, and much valued consultant.

As a writer he was concise and clear. His "Dissector" went through several editions, and was of the utmost value to students. Unsullied by pictures, it lightened the work of the young anatomist by clear and true descriptions, by accuracy, and by brevity. His essay on the "Excision of Joints" won the Boylston Prize in 1861.

His observations on "Spiroidal Fractures" and on "Pilo-nidal Sinus" were original. His latest work was a "History of the Discovery of Anæsthesia," which will endure as a complete and careful account of that great surgical event.

Dr. Hodges did a large share of public gratuitous service in the Cholera Hospital; in the Boston Dispensary; at the Massachusetts General Hospital; at the State House during the Civil War, on the examining board for surgeons; and also as a volunteer surgeon sent to the seat of war.

His quick and buoyant manner, his keen insight, decision of character, and honesty, would have insured success in any pursuit; and they won for him an enduring reputation as a skilled anatomist, a bold yet conservative surgeon, and a reliable observer and physician.

1896.

DAVID W. CHEEVER.

#### HAROLD WHITING.

PROFESSOR HAROLD WHITING was born in Roxbury, May 13, 1855. He was fitted for Harvard University at the Roxbury Latin School, and graduated from the University with the degree of A. B. in 1877, of A. M. in 1878, and of Ph. D. in 1884. He was Instructor in Physics in the University from 1883 to 1891. In 1892 he was appointed Associate Professor of Physics in the University of Cali-

fornia, and was lost at sea, with his wife and four children, while returning to Cambridge, on May 27, 1895.

This bare recital of the principal epochs in his life is like a mere pen and ink sketch of a vivid personality, lacking color, and conveying no adequate idea of the man whose career was so suddenly closed. This personality was so intense that one feels it difficult to realize that he has left us, and one half expects to meet him on turning some corner.

He early manifested a remarkable aptitude for scientific subjects. When little older than six or seven, it is related that he used to sit in an arm-chair for long periods, his head sunk on his breast, and when spoken to he would say, "Please don't interrupt me! I have almost got the theory." He was always observing, as well as thinking, even before he could speak plainly, coming home from drives or walks with such revelations as this: "I have found that an island is a steady thing."

My attention was first called to Whiting when he was a Sophomore. I was hearing a recitation in Physics, and had made some remarks upon a scientific point. He arose and stoutly denied the truth of my assertion. The class tried to suppress him by hissing, and by "Wood-ing up," but he maintained his ground. I found that he was right, and from that time began to observe him more closely. He was both morally and physically courageous. While sailing in the harbor of Plymouth he was capsized, and remained for a long time in a perilous position in the water shut in by a fog. At length a fisherman hove in sight. Whiting, immersed in the water, took off his hat and made the fisherman a low bow. The latter remarked, "Had n't you better git in?"

Dr. Whiting had a keen sense of humor mingled with a subtle wit. There was nothing unkind in this wit, for he had too generous a heart to knowingly wound any one. On looking over the proof of one of his scientific papers I was puzzled by a certain involved mathematical expression, and turned to him for an explanation. It was in reality a very simple formula, and he remarked, in apologizing for its abstruse form, "I have been so much annoyed by the involved mathematical expressions of the English school of mathematicians that I determined to give them a nut to crack."

Dr. Whiting's idiosyncrasies were so strong that no team work was possible for him. He could not be hitched up with any one. His mind seemed to play about a subject much as certain forms of electricity dart hither and thither about a summer cloud, frequently illumining

obscure regions in a surprising way. It was highly interesting to see him make an imperfect piece of apparatus give wonderfully good results; and while he was Instructor in Physics in the Jefferson Physical Laboratory he was of great service to the department, acting like a skirmisher in the growing subject of Laboratory teaching of Physics. Those who followed him profited both by his mistakes and his successes, and could afford to pardon the mistakes, which were those of a courageous explorer in a new field. His fertility of mind was remarkable, and he often said of himself that he was like a codfish which lays a million eggs, and only one or two perchance hatches. This fertility and brilliancy were such that many of those with whom he was associated often remarked that they would not be surprised if Whiting should hit upon something remarkable in Science. If he had discovered, for instance, the X-rays, many of us would have said, "It was just like Whiting to look through his hand at a Crookes tube."

The physical department of Harvard University is indebted to him for many valuable suggestions, and also for pecuniary contributions. He did not hesitate to aid it whenever he saw its needs, and by his will he gave twenty thousand dollars for Fellowships in Physics in Harvard University.

His scientific work began with an investigation of magnetic waves on iron and steel rods, which was published in the Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Harvard University was on the Theory of Cohesion. While Instructor in the University he published a Syllabus of a Hundred Physical Measurements, for the use of the Jefferson Physical Laboratory; and also a valuable treatise on Physical Measurements, consisting of three large volumes. While at the University of California he also published full sets of laboratory notes. When we examine his life's work we find that it gave a decided stimulus to the modern laboratory method of teaching Physics by quantitative experiments rather than by qualitative. If he had elaborated many of his ingenious methods into papers for periodicals, the list of his works would have been much longer.

Many could come forward and testify to his generous hand, as well as to his generous mind. With his rich qualities of scientific imagination, experimental skill, and mathematical ability, joined to the steadiness of middle age, much could have been expected of him. He still lives in his gift to the young Physicists of the University.

1896.

JOHN TROWBRIDGE.